MONTEREY NEWS

November 2014
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The Town

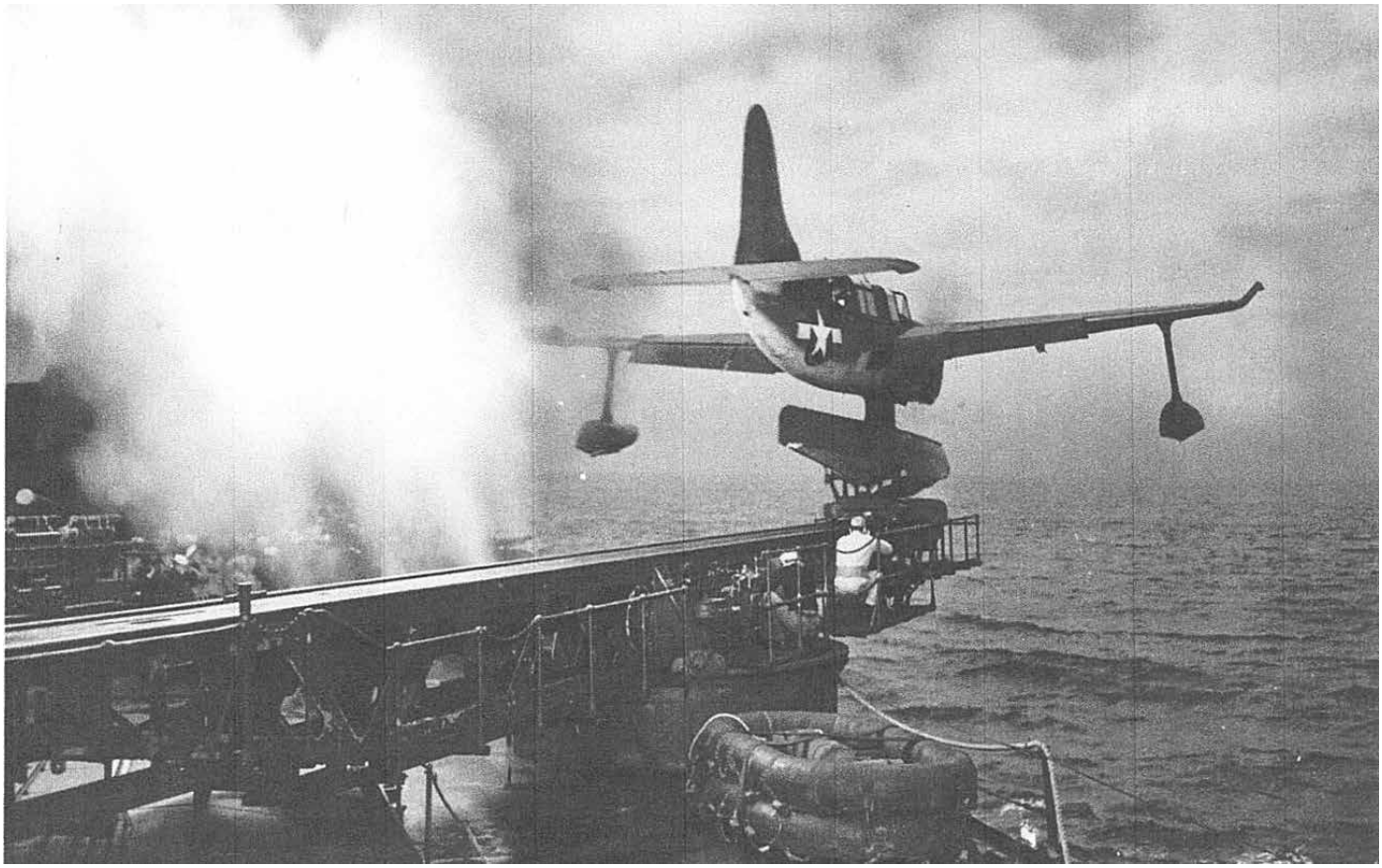
By David Irland

Notes on Select Board meetings from September 29 and October 5.

A Modest Expansion: Transfer Station

Selectman Wayne Burkhart suggested that, with the town over the hump seasonally, perhaps clarity was now possible on the issue of the transfer station's future. Last month, the situation there was called "abominable," due to critical equipment failure during the busy season. With a sense of measured forward progress, a tentative agreement appeared to have been reached that the town most likely should take over operations. Information about the recently opened, and well-organized, transfer station in Lenox was considered as a possible source of ideas for Monterey.

The issue then became determining whom to hire and in what capacity. A job description Mr. Burkhart characterized as "broad" called for a person skilled primarily in public relations. This was in response to awkward encounters that were cited involving summer customers in the recent past. But Mr. Burkhart also stressed the desire for a person who's "into" economical waste handling and recycling as a primary interest, with "green sensibilities" above and beyond a simple job description. In an attempt to provide said employee with a full week's worth of hours, he or she would then be folded into the highway department on a part-time basis, adding a few more talents to the wish-list—light carpentry and maintenance. Selectman Kenn Basler suggested that one way to pay for the upgrade in the transfer station attendant and facilities might be to raise the dump sticker fees, though Shawn Tryon mentioned residents who hired



Monterey's Eugene Bounous flew in observation planes, like the one shown in this undated Navy photo, during World War II. These planes were shot off the end of an aircraft carrier. See Steve Pullen's Veteran's Day article on page 10.

their own private haulers complained of being double-billed, so to speak, as they paid the same taxes as everyone else. The Board spent some minutes finessing the advertised wages for the position, after which Mr. Burkhart characterized the progress toward a better transfer station, fittingly, as a "modest expansion for a modern world."

In a related issue, Kenn Basler, impressed with the ideas and progress of Beth Parks, a volunteer at the Swap Shop, wondered about the possibility of appointing her as an employee for a six-month period to run and manage the shop, and in his words, "make it a real thing." The question of where the money for the position would come from was introduced but not answered for the time being.

Hume New England—Neighbors and Loudspeakers

The California-based, acting director of Hume New England, Bob Philips, represented the "inter-denominational Christian camping service" during a well-attended meeting. Mr. Philips addressed a consortium of neighbors seeking explanations and direction for a dismal scenario—the prospect of living within earshot of electronically amplified, rabble-rousing camp cheerleaders. Hume neighbor John Schweitzer said that due to the "extremely offensive" noise of the summer of 2014 (according to him, even worse than the summer of 2013), it was "hard to get into the Berkshires spirit." The "informational and cooperative meeting—we hope" (as described by Mr. Burkhart), was conducted with notable civility, despite the high stakes. And when Lynnie Harris, who will be joining the Hume staff in November, joined the discussion, the group of concerned neighbors breathed a collective sigh of relief to hear his promise of definitive camp accountability.

Mr. Harris has been brought on board to be the "boots on the ground" presence needed to bridge the gap between Hume Camp proper and its many serenity-loving neighbors—most of whom have chosen Monterey as the place in which to specifically arrest the rising modern tide of, for example, amplified noise, and rumbling traffic.

Bettina Schwartz, a five-year resident, described how her husband Mark had been run off the road more than once by truck traffic. Addressing resident Karen Allen's objections that the trucks had risen from "six a day to eight an hour," and reached "daunting and terrifying" intensity along Cronk Road, Mr. Philips talked about the construction of a new dorm, maintenance center, and gymnasium, and pointed out that the trucks would not be a permanent inconvenience. He also described the camp's policy of replacing contractors of all stripes whose drivers ignore the low speed limits of the camp's access roads.

When Mr. Philips candidly asked the room if they preferred there to be no camp there, Bettina Schwartz said, "Yes. It used to be quiet."

Mr. Schweitzer asked Mr. Philips "What are we missing? What do you provide?"

Mr. Philips said simply, "I would think it's in everybody's best interest to mold the kids. We want good wholesome lives for the kids."

Mr. Schweitzer, agreed: "Well said."

Mr. Philips held the room's attention when he described with sincerity the camp's mission to operate "in favor with God and Man," and outlined the mission of the camp to help young people avoid youthful trauma, to become good citizens and parents, stressing the concept of "re-creation," in the sense of re-creating a sense of community and family within the fifty percent of attending kids who were from broken homes (at least in the California branch).

Kenn Basler brought up the idea of a triggering mechanism for abutter notification about camp events, which quickly evolved into a proposal that an official email be exchanged between Hume and abutters as a way of avoiding future conflicts.

Selectman Scott Jennsen had an on-point question, which was never directly answered: "Why the loudspeakers?" He also stressed the necessity of, first and foremost, reining in the contractors who drive on Cronk Road or "you'll never win anybody over. It's up to you to take the initiative."

The potentially acrimonious meeting adjourned into something like an informal gathering, certainly in the spirit characterized by Mr. Burkhart as "New England style of governing."

Highways, Dams, and Culverts

A warrant was signed allowing Shawn Tryon to procure an engineer's services in the assessment of the storm-damaged dam behind the library.

The problem of excessive wash boarding along Fairview Road had former selectman Richard Tryon coming out in favor of adding calcium to the mix, while Wayne Burkhart strongly came down on the side of adding clay. In any case, Kenn Basler told the room that grading of the road would take place within the next week or two, at most.

Monterey resident, David Driscoll asked the board if he could repair a

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culvert on his land that tended to dig a twelve-foot ditch along his property after a major rain—apparently an issue that's been occurring for some time. Mr. Driscoll wanted to take responsibility himself for making a permanent repair to the ongoing washout problem. He'd been frustrated in his attempt to abate both this problem, and that of a dead tree that needed removal, because his calls to past Director of Operations Maynard Forbes were not returned. Explaining that Maynard was gone, the board advised him to talk to our new DoO, Shawn Tryon. Mr. Driscoll, eventually satisfied, thanked the board for their help.

Town Hall

Representatives of payroll services for the town were heard.

Dan Levin, from Harper Payroll, presented the benefits and costs of his company's services, as did Suzanne Wikka of her company in Pittsfield. Kenn Basler was careful to note that at this point, the town was merely trying to get a feel for how to work with a payroll company, and asked for contacts with other local towns using the services for valuable feedback. Stanley Ross, Finance Committee chair, came out strongly in favor of using a payroll service, citing all the complexities of tax changes and record keeping, among other advantages.

This 1931 postcard photo of the library was published last year at the beginning of the planning process for the future of our library. A vital next step is being taken at a public forum on Saturday, November 8. See page 5.

Don Torrico was once again in front of the board, this time to talk about an event known as the Drag-O-Ween, a Halloween drag-costume event at the Monterey Pavilion, which has no emergency lighting or backup system in place. For any event of over fifty occupants, such safety measures are legally required. A suggested solution was to have two off-duty firemen with flashlights in attendance. Since, according to Melissa Noe, "most of the firemen were going," this was met with favor, and quickly settled.

Monterey School

The foundation of the Monterey School is dropping one-and-one-half to two inches per year beneath one of the bathrooms, according to Donald Torrico, Monterey Building Commissioner. Mr. Torrico recommended Max Engineering, a firm run by Jeremy Richardson, to fix the school's floor system, which is enclosed on all sides and permanently damp. The condition of the school, according to Scott Jennsen, only adds fuel to the arguments that the school be closed, and should be addressed.

—Dave Irland

Correction: It was reported last month that there had been two false alarms in one week from Camp Hume. Those alarms had come from Kutsher's Sports Academy.

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Fire Company Plans
First Phase of Renovations

Encouraged by a $15,000 matching grant, the Monterey Fire Company plans to begin the first of a multi-phase renovation to its thirty-four-year-old fire station on Main Road by the end of the year.

This phase will focus on the front of the building—new siding, new bay doors, and a 623-square-foot addition. The addition will create much-needed office space and allow for reconfiguration of interior walls to create a classroom. The clapboard siding on the entire building needs replacement, but that will have to wait until later in the renovations.

Aside from a new metal roof installed three years ago, the station has had no significant work done to it, "and it's definitely showing its age," says Fire Chief Shawn Tryon.

The $15,000 grant, awarded by the Salomon Family Foundation, will cover a portion of the work. The fire company has also been raising funds through its annual steak roast and appeal letter.

Pending permit approval, the fire company plans to begin further building upgrades as early as next year. For more information, go to MontereyFire.org, "Here's our Appeal."

The Salomon Family urges residents to make their own contributions to the fire company's renovation efforts. Send contributions to Monterey Fire Company Renovation Fund, c/o Chief Shawn Tryon, P.O. Box 99, Monterey, MA 01245.

Steve Graves

Monterey Skating Rink Set-up Help Welcomed

Volunteers are needed to help assemble the Monterey Skating Rink on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 29, at 9:30 a.m. It's a ninety-minute job and no experience of any kind is required. If possible, bring a power drill, dolly, or leaf blower. Free coffee and food will be available. The Monterey rink provides free, indoor ice skating to Monterey families and friends usually throughout the months of January and February. There is informal, non-contact, soft-puck adult hockey three times per week, and youth hockey and general skating most days from 7a.m. to 7p.m. A schedule is posted at the rink. There is a heated locker room with windows to watch the skaters. The rink is managed by the Monterey Park Commission and volunteers who keep the beautiful facility clean and the ice smooth.

—Steve Graves

Open Sewing Circle

Enjoy your needlework and chat with other stitchers on four Tuesday mornings through the end of the year. We will meet on November 4 and 18, and December 2 and 16, from 10:00 to 11:30, in the Monterey Library, weather permitting. Call 528-1011 if you have any questions.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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Library Planning Forum
Envisioning Future Needs

The Friends of the Monterey Library are sponsoring an important forum on Saturday, November 8, at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the future of the library building. Karen Klopfer, formerly the librarian on the bookmobile that served Monterey, will lead the forum. This will be a follow-up to the previous forum several years ago when we discussed the future of the library in Monterey. That stage of the planning process helped us to identify issues with the building, and to set the stage for applying for a planning and design grant.

We received the grant and we are now working on the details of a building-needs plan. This step is all about envisioning specific improvements in the library building that will keep library service a vital force in the future. Suggestions and observations will be taken seriously. Refreshments will be served. Please come and let us know what you think the library should look like to meet the next twenty years of Monterey's needs. We aren't looking for architects, just people from Monterey who can tell us what they want from the library building. We want to plan and design what Monterey needs, and we need to hear from you to know what that is! We need a good turnout to do the best job possible.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

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Monterey Makers Studio Tour
Saturday, Dec. 6, 2015

Save the date for our sixth annual Monterey Makers Studio Tour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Monterey Cultural Council once again invites everyone to visit the studios and workshops of Monterey artists and artisans. The entire day is devoted to giving you an up-close view of their talents, tools, workplaces, and products.

Maps will be available at the Roadside Café, Gould Farm Harvest Barn, Monterey Library, and the Monterey General Store for you to plan your route and head off.

Join us on Friday, December 5, from 6–7:30 p.m. at the Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, for a kick off of the tour and the opening of *Circle Round,* the community art show. The Knox Gallery reopens on Saturday at 9:30 p.m. prior to the beginning of the open studio tour.

As of press time these studios, artists, and artisans will participate:

- Berkshire Fish Hatchery—Tours, the museum, and art by George Emmons.
- Frank D'Amato—Fine acrylic artist.
- Knox Gallery—*Circle Round*, a community exhibition.
- Ellen Grenadier—Gorgeous pottery with impressions from nature.
- Gould Farm Harvest Barn—Farm-produced foods and bakery.
- Roadside Café— Try their famous hubcap pancake breakfast, or lunch.
- Joe Baker—Fine artist with pastel and oil land-and-seascapes.
- Julie Shapiro—Abstract paintings and prints.
- Melissa Preston, Honey Hill Llamas—visit the llamas, yarn, and honey.
- Michael & Maureen Banner—Jewelry and hollowware silversmiths.
- Nicole Campanale—Playful handmade bow ties.
- Michael Erkkinen—Timber framer and designer.
- Kit Patten—Folk artist and sculptor.
- Roger Tryon—Berkshire maple products.
- Susan Sellew/Rawson Brook Farm—Fresh goat cheese.
- Wendy G. Jensen—Handwoven baskets.
- Monterey General Store—Delicious breakfasts and lunches, coffee to go.
- Linda Skipper—Elegant pottery forms with precise incising.

—Monterey Cultural Council

Strips from Christine Martin's very popular photo booth at Octoberfest.

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Community Potluck Suppers

There was an attentive and appreciative crowd at the October potluck for Richard Edelstein's great talk about the cosmos and dinosaurs. Many thanks to Richard for starting out our year on such a high note, and thanks to everyone who brought such yummy dishes.

For Wednesday, November 19, our speaker will be Chef Michael Ballon of Castle Street Café in Great Barrington. The restaurant is currently celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary and to mark this milestone, Ballon has written a book, *A Chef's Life; Farm-to-Table Cooking in the Berkshires*.

Chef Ballon is a regional pioneer in the farm-to-table movement and says his relationship with local farmers has always been the essential ingredient in how he runs his business, and is at the core of *A Chef's Life*. Just released this September, Chef Ballon's new book is not a cookbook, but rather a collection of about forty-five vignettes on being a chef, and also interacting with farmers, customers, and staff. While the book does include some recipes, they're inclusion is meant to help illustrate points about everyday life, changes in food trends, where and how chefs get inspiration, and what it's like to run a restaurant. Included in his book is an essay by Susan Sellew, owner of Rawson Brook Farm.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on Wednesday, November 19, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share and a serving utensil, along with a plate and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Barbara Dahlman and Kyle Pierce

From the Meetinghouse,
Family Legacies: Aunt Alice

I've written before about my legacies from my mom's aunt, Margaret Anderson. One of Margaret's sisters, Alice Gayer, died before I was born, but, story by story, she became real enough to become truly present in my life. Some might even say I inherited her passion for embroidery, though I found examples of her exquisite needlework only years after I'd begun my own love affair with the art.

I read letters Alice sent home from her tour of duty as a nurse in France during WWI (yes, that's a I, not a II), and heard tales about her marriage to a Brit she'd met there and nursed back to health. I once wore her floor-length black velvet ball gown with its slashed leg-o-mutton sleeves lined with gold satin, which horrified Margaret. Since I wore it to a Hallowe'en costume party, I'm still not clear whether Margaret's horror was in response to my mom's permission for the frivolous use of Alice's elegant gown, or the fact that it was being worn by an eleven-year-old.

I heard the family tell about her solo drive across the United States after her return to America as a widow. Her sibs Margaret and Mary, and my grandfather, Will, all laughed about how Alice regularly referred folks to her brother for compensation whenever her erratic driving caused property damage. Apparently she never did master the clutch. According to the story, she made the whole trip out to the Pacific coast and back east to Buffalo, NY entirely in first gear.

We all have a mixed bag of family legacies to sort through and sort out. Maybe yours is like the one I received

from Alice: beautiful silver, porcelain, and table linens here; laughter and a sense of adventure there; bad driving throughout. I passed along her gold-rimmed white china and her silver, even gave away her delicate hand-stitched tablecloths rather than keep them on a shelf. But I've held on to the passion for fibers, beauty, and the sense of adventure—and her photograph, too.

I think I've kept the best of her gifts. But if I ever start driving through the Berkshires in first gear only, somebody please remind me: that would be a good time to retire my car keys.

— Mary Kate Jordan

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Knox Gallery–November

Brece Honeycutt

Brece Honeycutt: underfoot opens at the Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, on Saturday, November 1, with an artist's talk at 6 p.m. and a reception immediately following. Honeycutt takes inspiration from the everyday plants right outside her Sheffield home and studio door, as both motif and material, to make images in her signature sculptural books, prints, and installations. Her handmade sculptural books, some stacked on shelves or wedged into small crates, others hung directly onto the wall, expose prints made from leaves and other plant material.

The artist mentions that "in addition to the subtle beauties created by the chemistries of late summer flowers, natural inks, and leaves, these plants are useful in herbal remedies." The complexity and multi-faceted features of these materials draw the viewer further in, providing fresh ways to see nature.

Honeycutt was born in Hickory, North Carolina, and grew up in Virginia. She professes a strong interest in colonial history, which she believes is due to both her frequent childhood visits to Mount Vernon and the influence of her North Carolina grandmother, who allowed her to "observe the old-time ways of doing things." Her installations have been placed in exterior locations, including university and school campuses [Johns Hopkins University and Bryn Mawr School are examples], historical houses, non-profit spaces, inner-city

Douglas Baz

parks and office buildings, urban markets, museums, and galleries. She collaborates with the National Park Service, students, historians, gardeners, non-profit organizations, poets, dancers, interpreters, government departments, senior centers, and other artists.

Honeycutt received an undergraduate degree in Art History from Skidmore College and a Master's degree in sculpture from Columbia University. She has exhibited widely; among her many awards and grants are two artists' fellowships from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities. She is an active lecturer, panelist, and committee member, and she has a blog "on a colonial farm" on her website, www.BreceHoneycutt.com.

"Circle Round"

A Call for Artists and Makers

The Knox Gallery winter community exhibit, *Circle Round,* will open on Friday evening, December 5, to kick off the Monterey Makers Studio tour on Saturday, December 6, organized by the Monterey Cultural Council.

We hope that the theme can serve as an impetus for new work. It can be taken literally—for example as an image of a traffic light, a pot thrown on a wheel, or a geometrically based painting of circles. Or, it can be more broadly imagined—perhaps the coming together of a community, or of the year as it ends and begins again. We look forward to seeing what you discover.

We encourage artists working in any medium to develop new work or submit an existing piece that focuses on the theme. We ask all friends and artists who would like to participate to submit by November 15 an Intent to Enter form, available at the library and on the town website. Instructions are on the form. One piece of two- or three-dimensional, ready-to-display work per artist will need to be delivered to the library on December 1 or 2 during library hours. The exhibit will run until January 31.

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours; Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery. @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

Artists' talks are sponsored by the Massachusetts and Monterey Cultural Councils.

—MaryPaul Yates

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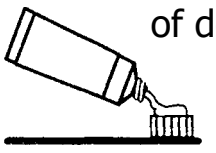

528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

Lake Garfield Report

The Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) is a non-profit group whose mission is to monitor and proactively support a healthy, safe lake and to educate residents, visitors, and town officials on their impact on lake health and safety. We have over one hundred members who contribute to FLG to fund our mission. Our website is LakeGarfieldMA.org

This year during our annual inspection with lake scientist Dr. Kenneth Wagner, a large patch (one to two acres) of invasive milfoil was unexpectedly found. It is located in the large basin just past the channel from the small basin. Other than this finding, the lake is in good health in water quality and overall weed control. Our website has the detailed report from this year and last.

After discussing the options with Dr .Wagner it was decided that diver-assisted suction harvesting of the milfoil patch was the safest (for the lake) and most cost effective.

Our initial discussions with the Monterey Conservation Commission on October 14, determined that the FLG should submit a notice of intent (NOI) to the Conservation Commission to obtain an order of conditions (OOC). The Conservation Commission is very supportive of our plans.

So that we can be proactive in the future and keep the lake healthy, we decided to develop a five-year plan (see the website for details). The NOI will include potential projects during those five years, which will allow us to carry out the plan without delays to obtain additional orders (OOC).

Courtesy of Lakeside Terrace

Highlights of the five-year plan:

1. Continue to draw down the lake each fall. This has been the most effective intervention to control the weeds in the lake. Those parts of the lake six feet or less in depth will have effective killing of the weeds, provided there is a deep freeze when there is little snow cover.

2. Monitor and aggressively remove all milfoil in the lake. Rapid response is essential.

3. Twice yearly machine harvesting of high growing weeds around the perimeter of the lake and where these tall weeds are seen. The purpose is to prevent these weeds from going to seed and spreading. We hope that the desirable low-lying weeds will out-populate the taller weeds. This approach does not make the weeds grow faster. Since we can draw down the lake each year, and hopefully beat the milfoil, we are in a different situation than other lakes like Lake Buel, which must harvest five days a week during the summer.

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4. Develop volunteer teams to monitor for and remove invasive plants such as milfoil. Volunteers are needed! Anyone who likes to scuba or would like to learn is encouraged to contact us.

5. Develop volunteer teams to help lake shore residents plant their lake frontage with native plants that will prevent erosion and nitrogen input into the lake.

6. Tom Flannery, the aquatic ecologist for the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), will help educate and train our teams.

7. Develop a plan to help lake shore residents maintain their septic systems.

8. Consider monitoring boats coming into the lake to ensure they are clean. Invasive species of plants (e.g. milfoil) and animals (e.g. zebra mussels) can enter the lake via boats. Washing boats prevents this. It is now the law and carries a fine for first violations and even prison for third violations!

Meeting with Select Board

The FLG and Dr. Wagner met with the Select Board on October 20. The Board is very supportive of the FLG's five-year plan and agreed the town should have an active role in keeping the lake healthy and free from invasive species. There was a good deal of discussion on how to proceed next. Everyone at the meeting agreed that the state has the major financial responsibly since this is a state-owned lake. A partnership between the town, state, and the FLG may be the appropriate approach.

Next steps include:

1. Contacting our state representatives to discuss state funding.

2. Involve LAPA-West (Lakes and Ponds Association of Western Massachusetts) in discussion on how to get State funding.

3. We will meet with the Select Board again at 10 a.m., October 27, to follow-up and determine the best approach to funding the immediate need in the spring (milfoil removal) and also to fund the five-year plan.

4. There was discussion on how to best enforce the boat-washing law. The harbormaster will be invited to the October 27 discussion.

—Friends of Lake Garfield

Contributions during October

Your contributions to the *Monterey News* help to support the whole town as an active and wonderful place to live. Thank you.

Carol & Jim Edelman
Suzanne O'Connell
Al & Barbara Antico
Alyssa Gelbard
Steve Aronson
Elaine Greene
Dorothy Enlund
Marie B Leuchs

Liz Goodman (fourth down from the top) rowed with her teammates from her alma mater*, Colby College, during the race, "Head of the Charles," that draws over ten thousand athletes each year. This year marked the fifthieth anniversary of the race on the Charles River in Boston.*

Submit Your Free Listing
Monterey Business Directory

Last month, the Monterey 2020 Committee announced that it is embarking on publishing a directory of businesses and organizations located or based in Monterey. To date, we've received several listings, but our desire is to have all interested Monterey businesses participate, so we are extending the deadline to November 30.

Please include your business/organization's name and address, your phone and email, and a brief description of your products or services. Any home-town discounts should also be noted.

The intent of the directory is to support our neighbors and their enterprises, as well as to furnish Monterey homeowners and renters with a convenient, free directory of local resources. The goal is for all production costs to be covered by sponsors of the directory, and listings will be free of charge.

If you'd like to sponsor the publication, please let us know. Also, if you know of someone who has a business based in Monterey, please spread the word and have him or her contact us at monterey01245@gmail.com. Questions or concerns? We welcome them —please don't be shy.

—The Monterey 2020 Committee

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Whether you are looking to renovate, rejuvenate, or just simply maintain your existing landscape, please contact Woodruff Mountain Landscaping to help you.
We offer a full line of outdoor services and are fully equipped and properly trained to help with any landscape construction project; excavation, stone walls & patios, tree & plant care, and driveway repair, to name a few.

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Paul Cholis, Ron Hoffman, and Steve Pullen with Vietnamese children in 1967. The photo was taken by Blaze Magyar, who was killed not long after in the Tet offensive.

Veterans Reunited
A Meeting of Brothers

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers. For he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother." -*Shakespeare, Henry V.*

Veterans don't consider themselves heroes for doing their duty. They served as young men and women who simply intended to honor their fathers and neighbors who answered the call before them. They discovered strength in their brotherhood. The real heroes, such as those who are awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, acted, without exception, to save or protect their brothers. There has always been a strong bond between those who experienced combat together. That's why there are VFW and American Legion halls in almost every town in America. Additionally, many who served in the same unit have gatherings periodically.

So it was with the crew members of the cruiser *USS St. Paul.* I knew Monterey's own Eugene Bounous was a World War II veteran, having met him years ago at a Memorial Day service. However, just last year we discovered he was a shipmate of my father on the *St. Paul*. Gene has also attended some of the reunions, as did my father. They were unique in that they were "plank" owners, having been members of the original crew when the *St. Paul* was still in the Boston Navy Yard. They went through the war with many experiences in common. Gene was a pilot who flew an observation plane that would be catapulted from the stern of the ship. My dad, who was a machinist/refrigeration mate, passed away in 1992. I wish I could have gotten the two of them together.

Last month, my wife Sally and I traveled to Washington DC to attend my first-ever reunion with thirty members of Charlie Battery of the 13th Marines, who were together in Vietnam in 1967. The primary reason for gathering was to celebrate the memoir just published by my fellow radioman, Ronald Hoffman, called *To Hear Silence*. Ron kept a journal during this period and also did extensive research in archival records to write his book. We chose Washington DC in order to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial together, and we were also honored by being allowed to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery. At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall we found the names of our fallen friends including Blaze Magyar, who I also teamed with at times, who was killed during the Tet offensive in January 1968. Using my camera, Blaze took the photograph you'll see on this page. Looking back at my life of many blessings, it is hard to imagine what was lost by those sixty thousand names written on that memorial.

❊

Dennis J. Downing
Attorney at Law

❊

17 Mahaiwe Street
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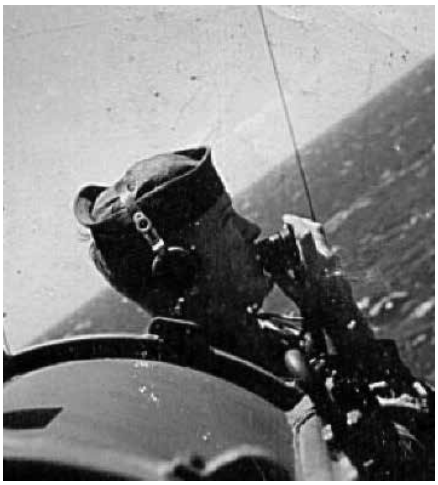

Steve's father, James Pullen, served as a machinist on the USS St. Paul *during World War II.*

The most important reason for my attending was to reunite with Paul Choclis, the forward observer for whom I was a radio operator, and we had an emotional greeting. As a team we went through so much together, always being sent to the areas most in need of artillery support by the infantry. We had very little down time, even in base camp. We were on five-minute alert as the first responders to helicopter crashes, or any place a platoon of Marines could be thrown into immediately. When you are that close to someone under challenging circumstances, you form a unique bond. Now that we have reconnected, I feel I have found a lost brother.

Once again veterans, their family and neighbors will gather at the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month to remember and honor service to and sacrifice for our country. All are welcome for the brief ceremony on the steps of the church.

—Steve Pullen

Octoberfest 2014

Many Hands Make a Fun Party

So many thanks to…

• Our Fabulous Sponsors: Berkshire Functional Fitness, Prairie Whale, Berkshire Property Agents, John B. Hull.

• Chief Shawn Tryon and the entire Monterey Fire Department—we could not have held this event without you.

• The Many Folks Who Volunteered: Del Martin, Josh Allentuck, Peter Vallianos, Myrna Rosen and Sue Cain, Cheryl Zellman, Gina Shea, Marya Makuc, Gary Shaw, George Cain, Gerry Clarin, John Makuc, Monterey Library, Berkshire Fish Hatchery, Joe Makuc, Jake Martin, Annie Shatis, Ginny Allentuck, Christine Martin, Masho McAlister, Christine Goldfinger, Claudia Martin, Kay Purcell, Dorene Beller, Elaine Lynch, Carole Clarin, Carol Ingher, Mary Paul Yates, Sgt. Michael Johnson, Robert Kuhner, Jean Germain, Henry Carroll, Felix Carroll, Christine Christinat, Steve Weisz, Jeffrey Spratt, Houseguests of Maureen and Michael Banner, Roy Carwile, Ellen Grenadier, Wendy Jensen, Fiona deRis, Richard Nault; and Beth Bogart.

• Our Purveyors: Liz Maschmeyer who organized Monterey's Kitchen Table, featuring donations by Lin Williams, Roger Tryon, Rick Banducci, and Wendy Jensen; Gould Farm, Gail Heath Art, Shannon's Jammin' Jams, Meadow Farms Market, Honey Hill Farm, Monterey Cultural Council, Monterey News, Friends of Lake Garfield.

• Prize Donors: Bidwell House, Bola Granola, The Bookloft, Catherine's Chocolates, Froyo, The Gifted Child, Matrushka Toys and Gifts, SoCo Creamery, Taft Farm, Tom's Toys, Big Y.

• Generous Food Donors: Berkshire Co-op, Maria's European Delights, Monterey General Store, Meadow Farm Market, Gould Farm, Price Chopper.

• Makers of the Gorgeous Quilt for our Successful Raffle: Pam Johnson and The Monterey PieceMakers.

• Those who Made the Day Sound Great: Dave Dempsey and Mike Scarpo, Easy Ridin" Papa's: Adam Brown & Will Conklin, Karl Finger and Vikki True; Mountain Laurel band: Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker.

• The Glass Bottom Brewery for Bringing the Beer!

• And most importantly, to all our friends, new and old, who showed up, showed support and had a fabulous afternoon!

Cheers—from the Octoberfest committee: Joe Baker, Mike Banner, Cara Carroll, Wendy Germain, Mary Makuc, Karen Anderson, Ann Canning, Laurie Shaw, Maureen Banner, Liz Maschmeyer, Evelyn Vallianos, Christine Goldfinger, Cynthia Weber.

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Bidwell Homestead
A Thanksgiving Harvest

The traditional Americana aura of a New England Thanksgiving celebration is best portrayed by Norman Rockwell in his classic painting, "Freedom From Want", depicting a scene of an apron-clad grandmother placing a roast turkey platter at a table of smiling family faces, with her husband approvingly looking on.

Rockwell's *Four Freedoms* collection came out in 1943. Its overwhelming national recognition led to its being adopted by the Treasury Department War Bond Drive as a morale builder to win World War II.

Today, prayers of thanks and Thanksgiving ceremonies are held in almost all cultures and religions, and are usually related to successful harvests. In the United States, roots of the harvest celebration are planted deep, dating back to the year 1621. The first Thanksgiving was hosted by the pilgrims and shared with ninety Massasoit Wampanoags as thanks for helping them surviving their first winter, even though fifty pilgrims had felt the fatal sting of hunger and sickness. In good faith, the Wampanoag reciprocated by bringing five deer and a few turkeys, setting the native tradition of sharing earthly harvests.

A native named Squanto showed the pilgrims how to plant the three sisters: squash, corn, and beans. Early colonial agriculture, derived from European methods, preferred native-American seeds, as they were likely to come up the following spring. Today, the Colonial Garden at the Bidwell House Museum demonstrates the era's gardening methods and the plants that were favored by colonial-era households for their practical uses.

The founding of the Bidwell House Colonial Garden began as a project under Curator Anita Welden and her caretaker husband Tom. They were inspired by tireless gardener Anne Hanchett Boland, and expertly guided by the Eastern Seed Conservancy of Great Barrington. Soon after the Colonial Garden was established, it appeared in color on the cover of *Yankee* magazine.

Anita and Tom grew Seneca violet-purple flint corn used to make flour for bread, and Tonawanda tobacco, which was probably considered a cash crop by Reverend Bidwell. Vintage vines of toma-

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

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toes came from the Epicurean Heirloom Society of Lenox. Flax was also grown for spinning thread from which to weave fine linen. The "keeping room" in those days had storage racks for dried fruits and a spinning wheel for flax. In the basement there would be a root cellar for vegetables and fruits. The frugal colonial mindset has also been preserved, leading the late Nancy Dinan to frequently remind other Bidwell House board members "not to eat our seed corn," a Yankee axiom when planning budgets for the next season.

The Colonial Garden continues under the watchful expertise of landscape gardener, Ruth Greene, supported by resident caretaker Rosalia Padilla. The garden has been favored with a recent gift—the construction of a grape arbor by neighbors Maureen and Michael Banner. Twelve different young heirloom apple tree varieties have also been started by board member Michael White with help from Mark Makuc. A Mohican wigwam by the late David McAllester (an early editor of the Monterey News) stands as a symbolic sentinel of autumn harvest as crops ripen upon Mother Earth.

On Saturday, November 29, the Bidwell Homestead will host the annual Thanksgiving Party from 4 to 7 p.m. Journey back a country mile in time with us to the original colonial cornucopia, with a celebration of Americana as portrayed by Norman Rockwell's *Four Freedoms*, including "Freedom Of Worship"—freedoms that have brought many pilgrims to these shores.

—George B. Emmons
Bidwell House Board Member

Jan Paxton

Kelly Funk and Chris Tryon

On September 6, 2014, Kelly Susan Funk and Christopher Jason Tryon were married in front of eighty-five of their closest family and friends in Monterey. The weather held out for a beautiful ceremony where Kelly was walked down the aisle, as bagpipes played in the distance, and Chris met her with their loving pup, Mocha. Kelly and Chris will reside in Monterey where they have their home and business. The newlyweds plan on a honeymoon trip to New Zealand next February.

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"I came to Octoberfest after a working six-hour meeting at Gould Farm. All I thought I could manage was a nap. Wrong! The weather was so perfect the atmosphere so enchanting I couldn't tear myself away. I stayed until closing time." —Joyce Scheffey

"One little girl said maybe she would do the pumpkin roll once, then, could I do another? Then, I want to do more, until she won 4 times."
—Christine Goldfinger

"All I can say is that it was a magical event. From the minute we pulled into the parking lot, you could feel the good vibe. As we tasted brats and beer and chatted with neighbors, I knew there could be no better way to spend an autumn afternoon." —Kathryn Roberts

"Interesting people, great food, musi
Enjoyed every minute of it."

"The Glass Bottom Brewery's handcrafted beer was an obvious winner with everyone." —Ellen Canning Ryan

''We don't know who enjoyed the craft table more...the kids, or their parents!''
—Myrna Rosen and Sue Cain

"Monterey's Oktoberfest was so well o
lent food and beverages, fun activities
a gorgeous setting!"

"Amazing! Let's do it again next y

Many thanks to Mike Banner, Christine Christin

Octoberfest 2014 A Pumpkin-Rolling Success!

As if by magic, the morning's heavy rains and cold winds lifted to reveal one of the brightest, most temperate afternoons a Berkshire autumn could offer. In fact, throughout Octoberfest, magic abounded as neighbors celebrated on the grounds of what soon will be our Monterey Community Center (MCC).

The financials are still being tallied; however, raising funds was a secondary goal to raising awareness of the MCC and bringing the community together. We are pleased to report that the event yielded dozens of informative house tours, legions of veggie-craft creatures, scores of rolled pumpkins, an equal number of prizes, hundreds of savored bratwurst, non-stop local music, many cups of steaming homemade soup, two-and-a-half emptied kegs of craft beer, countless photo-booth memories, several purchases of Monterey-made products, and of course the long-awaited drawing of the winning quilt raffle ticket belonging to a very lucky Emanuel Wolff.

Other winners included candy-jar-guess maven Ava Meier, who scored the sweet sum of her correct response (Steve Snyder also came up with the right answer, but graciously forfeited his share of the prize), and lucky chess players David and Domenic Mazza, who were awarded Bidwell House family memberships, compliments of the museum.

Perhaps the best way to capture the magic of the day is to relive it in the reflections of those who were there, which we hope you enjoy.

—The MCC Octoberfest committee

My favorite was decorating the gourds. The little kids rolling the pumpkins were so cute. The music was pretty and really nice to listen to. I loved the dulcimer."

—Margaret Ryan, age 11.

c, and beer. Loved the Bola Granola.

—Eleanor McNerney

organized. High-quality vendors, excel-
, Clean and efficient. Nice people and

—Mary Paul Yates

ear and make it even bigger."
–Connie Wilson

at, and Felix Carroll for all the photos.

''Such a wonderful, warm community event. What a unique town we have.''

—Hy Rosen

"Best day ever! The vegetable decorating was veggietastic!"

—Nadia Makuc

The Sky is Falling

The woods floor is bright with orange, yellow, and red. On days of dark skies, we are lit from below in the colors of sun. Like the last warm days of October, this new woods carpet is all the more precious because, though we can count on it every year, it has a short season. November comes, days are shorter, colder. The lively new leaves will lie down and get quiet, in how they look and in how they sound as we shuffle through them. This year, though not every year, there is an extra whammy under the leaves: mast.

This is a "mast year," which in our deciduous woods means "walk carefully" or we may turn an ankle and go crashing down, thanks to a bumper crop of acorns. It also means the animals are feasting, from turkeys to deer, including ducks. See this month's Wildlife Report for Richard Nault's account, on page 19.

The acorns in the woods right around here, about two miles east of the town center, are thick on the ground under the red oaks. These huge familiars bloom in the spring, with male pollen-producing catkins and separate female flowers in clusters. Pollen travels from one flower to another thanks to wind, not insects, and the pistillate flowers, the females, form acorns. In red oaks, these nuts won't mature in a single season. Nuts that started developing this past spring are not the ones all over the ground now. These started up the year before, spring of 2013. Conditions back then must have been just right, and though we humans should walk carefully now, wild nut eaters are happy this fall.

Oaks can be divided into two major groups, the black oak group and the white oak group. Our red oaks are members of the first one, and all of these have acorns that take two years to ripen. They are biennial-fruited. All the species in the white oak group are annual-fruited, with acorns ripening the same year they start forming. Richard Nault has been watching the ducks of Lake Buel eat 2014 white oak acorns this fall.

Here in North America we have at least fifty different species of oaks, whereas in the UK, there is one. Julia Rogers, writing in 1923, describes the white oak as "the noblest tree of its race; king by common consent, in our forests of broad-leaved trees. It is the embodiment of strength, dignity, and independence. The Briton has but one native oak on which to spend his loyalty and devotion. We have fifty kinds—all American—but the white oak is chief among them all. In this opinion, the lumberman and the tree lover generally concur, and each, as he gazes on a fine old tree, feels the smoldering fires of ancestral tree worship flame once more in his breast." (*The Tree Book*, Doubleday, 1923, pp. 198-199).

Most of us know an oak tree when we see one, also an acorn. Telling a red oak from a white oak is easy. The red oak has leaves with pointed lobes, the white oak leaf has rounded ones more like fingers. Their acorns are different in several ways, and the ducks of Lake Buel may prefer the white oak nuts. These fast-ripening acorns, produced every year, are sweeter than the nuts of the black oak group. The biennial acorns contain more tannin or tannic acid, which makes them hard on most digestive systems, also bitter to taste. In the days when farmers fed acorns to livestock, it was only pigs —not horses, cattle, sheep, or goats—that could thrive

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on the black or red oak acorns. Mast refers to various wild nut crops, but especially acorns. Masting occurs every three to five years, when certain trees put out prodigious quantities of nuts. Different species of trees do this at the same time over very wide areas, hundreds and even thousands of miles. Some tree scientists call this synchronicity a "spectacular ecological mystery." (Walter D. Koenig and Johannes M.H. Knops in *American Scientist,* July – August issue 2006, pp. 340-347.) So far there has been no explanation for it except maybe climate or temperature during a given season. But there are often a wide variety of weather conditions over such big distances, making this an unpromising answer to the mystery.

The timing of masting certainly favors the trees. In a year like this one, there are so many acorns on the ground that no matter how many mice or turkeys come around to feast, they won't get all of them. Many red oak acorns will sprout in the spring, showing bright red along the root sprout as well as inside the first cracks in the acorn shell. The populations of acorn-eaters will have experienced a lean year last year, so they are not so numerous now. Next year, when they are booming, there will be a bust year in the nut department. The young oaks will grow like crazy and most won't produce any nuts themselves for about twenty years. All their energy will go for growth, not reproduction. Once they are grown-up producers, they will have their mast years now and then, with amazing nut production. In a mast year like this one, the trees don't grow so much—as can be seen in the tale told by annual growth rings. Next year—more growth and wood production—and a lean year for the nut-eaters.

Oaks have been important to folks for a long time, from sacred groves of the Druids to the old Norse who built their ships with "hearts of oak" so storms could never break them open. In California and in New England, Indians ate the nuts of the white oaks and in Europe ancient people believed that "men fed with oaken mast/ The aged trees themselves in years surpassed." (Quoted in Rogers, 1923, p. 223.)

Here we love them as neighbors and fellow woods-dwellers. They change all the time, as the light strikes from one moment to the next, and still they are steady. This year, this month, they are letting loose a volley of acorns that strike the metal roof of our chicken house like gunshots. The rhythm is a percussive piece, never repeating, endlessly lively as the next generation comes whacking down to earth. I could listen to it all day, I think, but I wonder what it is like for the chickens. They are molting now, not laying, and they should stay in. Outside, the sky is falling.

— Bonner McAllester

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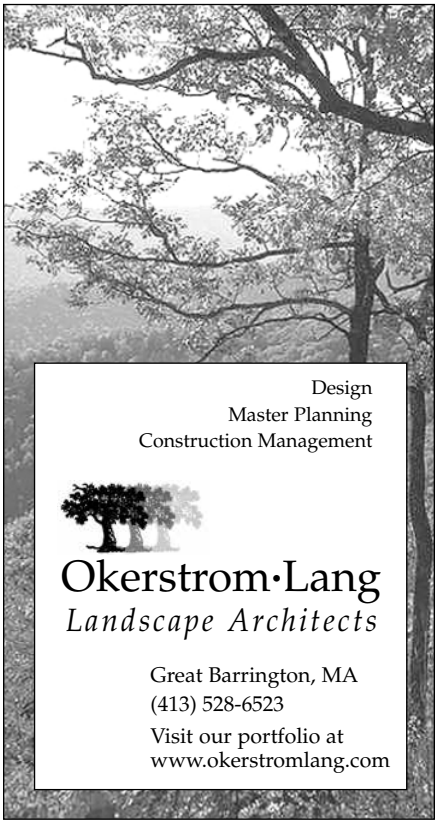

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Community Center News
Closing in for Winter

Visitors to the MCC during Octoberfest (October 11) and afterward are still talking about how impressed they are with the progress on the building since last year. We took down the tarps on two walls so that all could view the solid new floors, the new stairway and second floor joists, and the amazing structural steel beams and rods that are solidifying the structure. It's clear for all to see that with walls, windows, and interior fittings, we'll have a community center.

There is significant progress in that direction: architect Steve McAlister has completed his exacting drawings for the center, and the SIPs (six-inch-thick structural insulated panels that provide for exterior sheathing, dense foam insulation, and interior wallboard) have been ordered for the walls and should be delivered by late November. They will be installed by Eric Pedersen and his crew. We hope at the same time to be able to install new windows so that the building is enclosed for the winter months, allowing us to forge ahead with interior work.

Felix Carroll

The tarps were down, and the visitors flooded in. They found new basement, first, and second floors; new stairs up and down. Hopefully soon it will be closed in for winter.

Buy A Window

To get us to this critical stage by year-end, we have launched a "Buy a Window" campaign; of the twenty-seven windows we'll need, eight have already been sponsored by donors, so there are only nineteen to go, at $600 each (purchase and installation) and fully tax-deductable. Order your window or windows now—team up with friends if you like. You can send a check made out to FWMH at PO Box 302, Monterey, MA 01245, or donate through our secure donation portal on our website at CCMonterey.org. Be sure to note on the check or in PayPal that your donation is for "Buy a Window."

After the building is enclosed, we can move on to the electrical work, heating, plumbing, lighting, flooring, trim, etc. Our upcoming Capital Campaign mailing focuses on getting us through these expenses, estimated to be around sixty thousand dollars. So, as you look to make your 2014 tax deductions by the IRS December 31 deadline, we ask that you consider giving generously to "your new home." In the meantime, the community center committee diligently continues to apply for more grants and pursue various forms of funding. We are grateful for all that you have contributed to get us to this exciting stage.

—The MCC committee

Brece Honeycutt
underfoot
October 31 - November 29
reception and talk: Saturday, Nov. 1, 6-8:00pm

KNOX GALLERY
Monterey Library

Circle Round
opening reception: Friday, Dec. 5, 6-7:30pm
open for extended library hours on Saturday, Dec. 6., 9:30am-4pm as part of the Monterey Makers Studio Tour

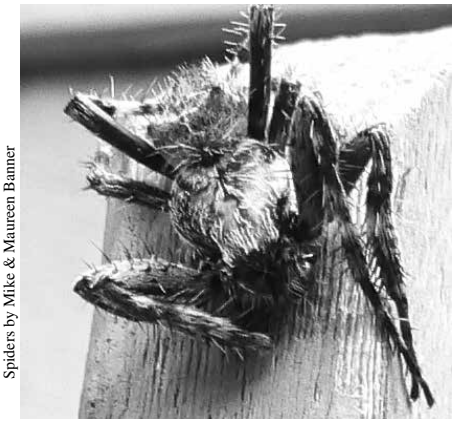
Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey
Artist talks sponsored by Monterey and Massachusetts Cultural Councils

October Wildlife

Bugs, Bobcats, Bats, and Ducks

Early in the month, Carol Ingher reported that the downy woodpecker living around her house is still a presence, and that she now has seen a "white fuzzy caterpillar with a mid-line center stripe in black…a little more than an inch long." I'll guess this was a hickory tussock moth.

Michael and Maureen Banner found a big bristly spider on a fence post back at the end of September, and then another one later in the month. They got good photos of the spiders, also of a "tiny green thing," of mysterious identity, with six legs and no wings.



Spiders by Mike & Maureen Banner

Around October 12, Tom and Suzanne Sawyer report that Tom was "chuffed at by what he thinks is a buck in our woods." Also, there has been a porcupine visiting between the Sawyer place and Cynthia Weber's, next door. This bold porcupine visits various yards in the neighborhood, even "stopping traffic as it crosses to the woods…" on the other side of the road.

In mid-month, George Emmons called to report a "ladybug invasion" at his place. About the same time Bob Rausch saw two bobcats or wildcats crossing New Marlboro Road. You can use either name you like for these wild felines. I grew up learning they were "wildcats," but the more common "bobcat" name refers to their "bob tail." They do have short tails, unlike most domestic cats and the mountain lions—so controversial yet incontrovertibly seen many times around here. In my opinion.

Ed Salsitz and Arrie Setiawati sent a photo of large dark seed pods, which they see every year thick on the sidewalk by their New York home. These are the pods of a honey locust, a popular shade tree in many places.

On Lake Buel, Richard Nault reports a family of ducks with young ones, seen all summer, practically pets of many lakeshore folks. Now there are seven "… that are still here…around my vacant dock space and (exclaiming excitedly) dive and feed on the acorns that fall off the overhanging white oak trees!" Richard feels pretty sure these are mallards. See "The Sky Is Falling," p. 16, for more on acorns.

Kit Patten and Connie Wilson are glad to report several bats around their house. Connie saw them and Kit heard one of them.

Steve Snyder told with some excitement of his urge to call me immediately about a "fox squirrel" he'd seen, which he said had stripes down its back like a chipmunk. I was amazed to hear he had seen a fox squirrel in these parts. "Well," he said, "you know, those big grey ones." I asked if he meant what we usually call "grey squirrels." I know Steve lived at one time in Michigan, where there are big grey squirrels with a sandy red front, called "fox squirrels." He went on to tell about these stripes, and I asked carefully if they were also present on the head. "Yes, well, I'm not sure. But I was going to call you right away, it was so amazing. And then…I woke up."

Tell me your wild stories, your dreams, anything at all.

—Bonner McAllester
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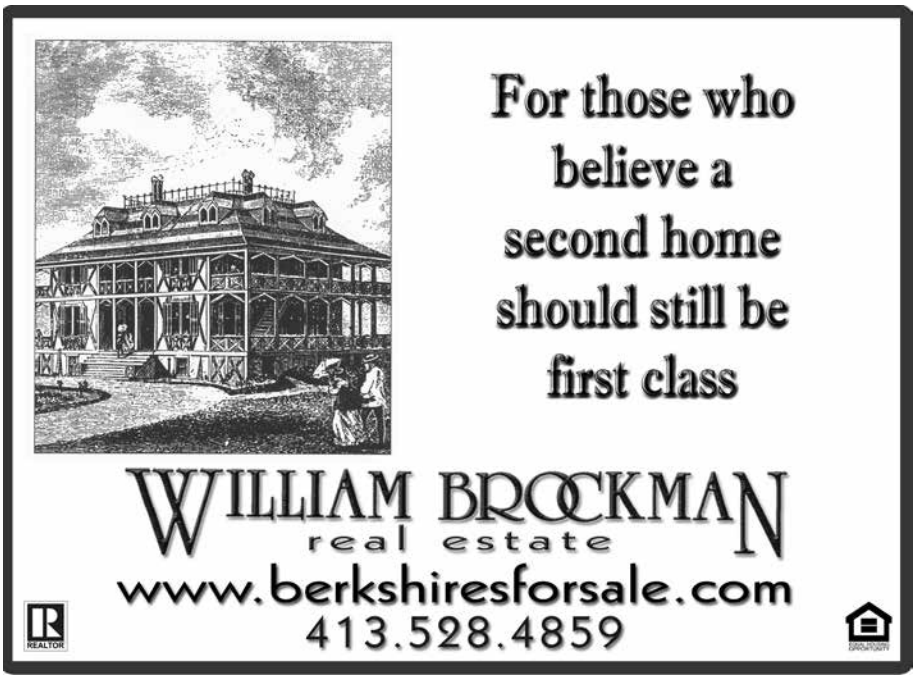

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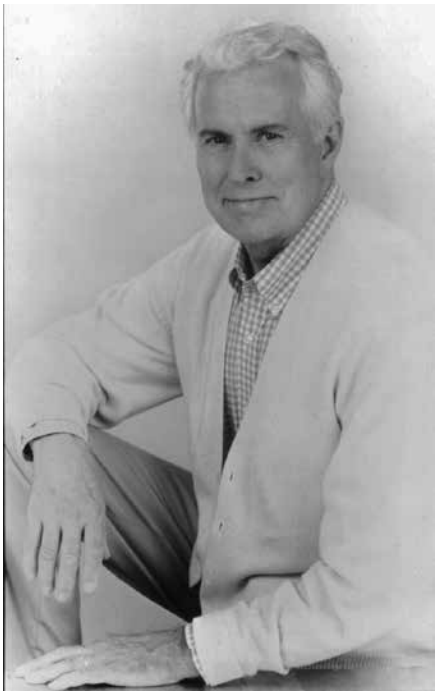
Who's Who in Monterey
Bill Swan

There is, indeed, something swan-like about Bill Swan. When you come into his living room, down a few steps from the front hall, where a deep blue Oriental carpet covers wood floors, where that same deep blue dapples the room—from lamps and throw pillows—and where Bill himself sits composed in a wing-back chair, his hair white, feathery and his aged face still handsome, you can't help but to think that his last name is just right. But once he begins to speak, it's a different story. Swans are fierce; Bill isn't. No, he's polite and welcoming.

It was a beautiful day when we met, autumn light shining through the westerly wall of paned-glass doors. Outside these, a green lawn stretched down and away from us, and the first few fallen leaves skittered across it—a relay race. I settled on the couch next to his chair, regretting to upset the perfectly fluffed cushions. Were we the audience to the leaves on the lawn, this stage of play? Or was the stage on the inside of the doors, where we two sat? If so, then Bill was rightly at the center.

He designed this room as an addition when he bought the house, about thirty years ago, harking him back to his early years as an artist. But now, long finished and flawlessly set, it harks to his many years as an actor—on the stage, and in film and on TV.



The moment when Bill the artist became Bill the actor came when he was twenty years old.

Born in 1928 and raised in Amherst, NY, he is the only son of his parents. His sister, Barbara, came along eight years later.

It wasn't a happy home, though on the surface it might have seemed otherwise. Bill's father was an executive at a creamery, so there was always plenty of money. As for the children, they always enjoyed the care of nurses and maids. But both of Bill's parents were alcoholic, which made the household tumultuous and kept Bill from ever having friends over to play: he just never knew what scene might unfold. So, since he could never with confidence have people in, he took the first opportunity he had to get out.

That came in the form and promise of the G.I. Bill. College had never been part of the family discussion in regard to Bill. Though the resources were there, the hope and expectation weren't. One afternoon while in town, he noticed an advertisement for the G.I. Bill, gave this a moment's thought, then found the nearest recruitment office, and enlisted in the army. Bill knew that this was the best, and perhaps only, way out.

Back home a bit later, he told his mother. It wasn't welcome news. But it also wasn't reversible.

He graduated from high school in 1946 and was then soon shipped off to Italy—this when most people his age were going to Korea. Considering himself lucky, he came to find that being a soldier in what was felt as an occupying army wasn't all that easy. It was, however, tolerable, and sometimes even enjoyable. Bill remarks that he was the mascot of his unit, "young and eager to please."

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His service would last a year and a half; and when he was back stateside he would head to California, enroll at the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles, CA, and begin his life as an artist in earnest.

But another fateful day befell—one afternoon with a friend at an art-film-house screening of Laurence Olivier in *Hamlet*. He'd never heard of Hamlet, or Shakespeare for that matter; he'd never heard of Olivier and, though he was in school plays back in Amherst, he had never considered acting to be so compelling an art. But now, sitting in that darkened theater, he realized that this is what he wanted to do.

He withdrew from art school and enrolled at Max Reinhardt's Theatrical Workshop on Sunset Boulevard. Not long into his time there, though, he connected with Peter Shaw who told him to go back East, to New York City, where television was just breaking out.

He followed that advice, which proved wise—a move that bore lots of fruit, and quickly. Through various connections, he made his way into summer stock here in the Berkshires, where theaters would produce a different play every week; he also came into such live TV productions as *Studio One*, *Kraft Theater,* and *Producer's Showcase: Dodsworth*.

"We were making it all up," he said of TV work. "It was brand new and we were making it all up." Then he recounted for me his time on *Action in the Afternoon*, a live Western, shot at CBS Studios in Philadelphia, and airing (live!) five afternoons a week. Bill was on it for a year, learning lines, mastering horseback riding, working creatively with a whole cast and team, all to produce an hour of live (live!) entertainment, every day, every week. That's a lot of output.What's more, it paid—so now Bill no longer had to work as a night clerk at the front desk of the Claiborne Hotel, where "if there was anything you didn't know about life," he explained, "you'd learn it there." Now, bringing in a few hundred dollars a week, he had a hot-water heater installed at his cold-water, six-floor walk-up. The bathtub no longer needed to be in the kitchen, near the stove; it could be in the bathroom.

Best of all, several years of this earned him the attention of film executives back in Los Angeles. People at Twentieth Century Fox and Columbia beckoned him west, and an advertisement he spotted seeking someone to drive a car from New York to San Francisco suggested the means. He and a friend took the job—a long drive that landed Bill once again in Hollywood.

A week into his time there, he secured the part of a seaman on *Navy Log,* in which he had star billing and was paid $875 a week—this according to the journal that he meticulously kept. And thus began a thirty-year stint as a working actor, with featuring roles in several films, leading roles in more than one hundred stage productions, and guest star roles in over two hundred television shows. In fact, Bill is a rare member of all three—the Actors' Equity Association, the Screen Actors' Guild, and the American Federation of Radio and Television Actors.

The work of which he seems most proud is *Lady in a Cage,* starring Olivia de Havilland, with whom he is still close. He remembers her seeking him out among the cast, so as to establish a bond with him that would translate to their characters on screen. Released in 1964, it is very much of its era—beautiful, stylized, and paced like a play.

Things in film would change, though, of course. The collapse of the studio system, and moreover the social revolutions beginning in the late '60s, had Hollywood employing different sorts of actors to tell different sorts of stories. The likes of Cary Grant and Clarke Gable gave way to Al Pacino and Robert De Niro. Whereas men were once meant to be dashing and upwardly mobile, soon enough they were to be gritty and fallen on hard times. It was an ill fit for Bill. So, in 1980 he sold his house in Southern California, came back East, and bought in the Berkshires. >

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Who's Who - Bill Swan.

Monterey has been his retreat ever since. He's had regular roles on several soap operas, where dashing men are always welcome, and which kept him heading to the city every week. He's not in anything now though, largely because so many soap operas are no longer. This has given him the chance to reflect.

He remembers for me one encounter fondly—on the beach while he was between gigs. "Go get a tan," his agent had told him. "You look better with a tan." While there, another actor approached him. "You're Bill Swan." he said. "I always take the roles you turn down." (which he would only do because of a scheduling conflict). The other man continued, "My agent tells me I'm a 'Bill Swan' type."

Tickled at being a type, he explained what that might be, both the roles he would play and his manner as an actor. "I never held up a production. I never arrived late and I was always prepared. I knew my lines and knew my part."

Reliable, easy to work with. I said, "I imagine that's a valuable commodity in a labor market like Hollywood." He nodded his head that I was right. Falling quiet for a moment, he seemed to be gliding along the smooth surface of his life, but he was perhaps also paddling in untold depths.

—Liz Goodman

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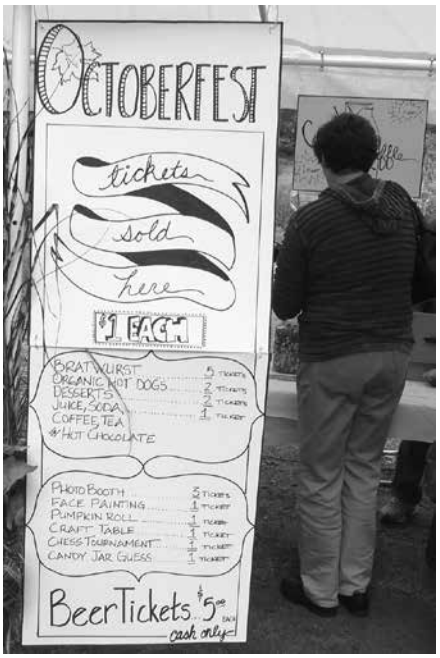

Octoberfest photos by Felix Carroll, Christine Christinat, and Mike Banner

The Bidwell House Museum

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A fund-raising party

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KATHERINE BOUTON: *Shouting Won't Help: Why I – and 50 Million Other Americans - Can't Hear You*

November 29 4 PM
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Funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Local Cultural Councils

Notes from the Old World

In my travels in the old world, I always find a blend of history-come-to-life, peaceful disconnect from the frenzy of American life, and a chance to visit with friends and family thousands of miles away. I set off at the end of September, for Germany, Denmark, and Northern Ireland, before settling down in London.

Berlin, Germany

Berlin has a different feel than other cities in Europe. As I walked the streets of the city, I tried to imagine the siege that resulted in the Berlin Airlift in 1948-49. Thousands of pounds of food and supplies were dropped for over a year to save the citizens from starvation. I was there on German Unification Day, the only federal national holiday, and a recent reminder of events that have happened during my lifetime. I stood where the wall used to be and stared up at the Brandenburg Gate—in front of me was East Berlin, behind me, West Berlin. The modern feel and recent development is a vivid reminder of the Cold War conflict and former Soviet presence, but it also reflects Berlin's emergence as a major player on the world stage.

I'm blessed to know people in Europe, a reality that makes traveling decidedly more enjoyable. A friend of mine from Middlebury, VT, lives there with her husband and children and they welcomed me into their home, serving as incredible guides in both Berlin and historic Potsdam.

Copenhagen, Denmark

Next, I made my way to Copenhagen to meet up with my cousin. We went to the National Gallery, where I learned a great deal about Danish culture and history, and then we walked through Kings Gardens and the city center to the Christiansborg Castle. The tower has stunning views, and one can go underneath the palace and see old ruins of previous castles below, dating back to the 1100s. From there, we headed north along the river to the canal area of Nyhavn. I thought I'd walked straight into the 17th or 18th Century. Old restored boats are docked by the sides of the canal. The brightly colored houses, in classic shades with white window frames, were shining in the afternoon light and diners lounged outside on restaurant patios sipping drinks and eating dinner. I bought a beer, my cousin grabbed an ice cream, and we sat down on the side of the canal. As I closed my eyes, I was suddenly transported back hundreds of years, imaging those who walked here before, sat where I sat, and sailed from this harbor. Such is the magic of Europe.

My cousin and I traveled a few hours north that night to her mother's house where the rest of the family gathered for a leisurely Sunday of visiting. These quality gatherings are precious because we see each other so infrequently. Throughout the day, sharing stories and comparing our respective life experiences, I realized again that life is simpler in Denmark, the pace less hectic, and the quality higher. It's sometimes difficult to admit, because it is different, but in sharing stories, I'm reminded of how some other countries have gotten right many things we have yet to figure out or lack the will to do here in the U.S.

Belfast, Ireland

I've always felt a bit Irish, ever since I first set foot in Ireland over a decade ago (and not just on Saint Patrick's Day). I left Denmark and headed next to Northern Ireland. I knew I had Dunlop relatives there, although we had met only once, and a rich family history. Upon receiving my email, they enthusiastically encouraged me to visit, a trip that would include the Titanic Museum in Belfast (at my request).

As we drove down the road and the old house came into view, it almost took my breath away. It was built in a bit of a valley, against a hill, with structures (an old well and remnants of an ice house) dating from the 13th or 14th century when a monastery once stood on the land. I love history, but this was family so the emotional implications were significant. Walking into the grand foyer, with portraits of family members hanging on the walls, I heard centuries of history whisper to me. There were old dresses, books, photos, furniture—everything has been used over the generations. And not just by anyone this time, but by my ancestors. I was in reverent awe.

My relatives welcomed me as family. We spent our evenings talking about family connections and stories—the one who sailed as a fleet surgeon and traveled the world, the relative that perished in World War I—and we pored over the family tree, tracing the branches dating back hundreds of years. I reveled at this rich historical record. The mapping of it all will take years, but now I get to be a part of it and I finally have a real connection to our Irish relatives.

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London, England

London is *that* city for me, a place that feels like home, and is home to close friends. I can walk much of the central city without a map, following my instinct and finding my way to my favorite pubs and coffee shops. I hardly dared imagine, seven years ago, as I flew home after my year abroad, that these friendships would last. But they have. In fact, they've flourished, and each time we pick up right where we left off. Now they're young professionals, living a bit outside of the city center, in apartments with kitchens. Using spare keys, I was able to come and go as I pleased, walking the river and city by day, and either pubbing or cooking in by night. From trips to the store, outings to the gym, visits to the market, or Friday evening karaoke parties, it all felt so normal. My social schedule—lunches, coffees and dinners—filled the week up to the brim, reminding me why I treasure time to re-connect with friends. I feel inordinately lucky to have such a community in such an international city.

Family

As I sit here and reflect on my trip—the three weeks just flew by—it really boils down to the complexities of family (and of course, the importance of friends). Family has always been the most important aspect when it comes to feeling at home—when you're adopted, it pretty much has to be. My journey in life thus far has revolved around building communities. After all, my family was already global at four months old. As I left on this trip, I was excited to learn more about our Irish and Scottish history. But once I arrived, suddenly I was surrounded by it, touching and feeling parts of this history that goes back hundreds of years. My relatives who I barely knew opened their homes and their arms to me, answering questions and encouraging my exploration of our family. The brief two days drastically broadened my sense of family and belonging. I've never particularly felt like I've owned much of our family history before, that I might have history and roots. That's changed now, fundamentally shifting something and grounding me in helpful ways even as I continually ponder the future.

—Tarsi Dunlop

l.- Eva Destruction and Kashi Golean in a touching duet from Wicked *during Drag-o-ween, held at the Monterey firehouse pavillion, r.-Boxxa Vine (Aaron Johnson).*

A Halloween Treat

Like many of my neighbors, I arrived at the recent Drag-o-ween show not knowing what to expect. Soon I was howling with the crowd at the costumes, the humor, and the notion that such an event was taking place in this tiny town. One of the performers remarked that as his GPS led him from Albany into our picturesque village, he began to think it was some sort of joke.

It was noted that 140 people attended – more than voted in the last town election. Kudos to Monterey's own, phenomenally gifted, Aaron Johnson, a.k.a. Boxxa Vine, who gave a commanding performance. Another hometown talent, Andrew "DJ Drew" Shaw, did a superb job keeping the music "in-synch."

Knowing that this kind of entertainment isn't everyone's cup of tea made it even more significant, as we can truly say Monterey boasts an abundance of tolerance, talent, and a love for the absurd.

—Jackie O' Lantern

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Select Board Corner

Happy November everyone.

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For those of you who don't already know, our town website is a great way to access information about the town. Upcoming meetings and other events of interest are listed on the Events calendar. Agendas and minutes for meetings can be found under each "Departments" or "Boards & Committees". Subscribing to "News & Announcements" can be done on the home page under "Subscribe to News." One can make many choices for what information would be automatically sent. You can alter your choices or cancel the service at any time.

Office/Town Hall Closings:

- Administrative Assistant's office will be closed from11 a.m. on Monday, November 24 through Friday, November 28.
- Town Hall will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, for Veteran's Day and Thursday, November 27, for Thanksgiving.

Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend calling ahead.

Meetings and events:

Agricultural Commission: First Friday, Nov. 7, at 10:30 a.m.

Board of Health: Monday, Nov. 3 and 17, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Conservation Commission: Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m.

Free blood pressure clinic: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, Nov. 13, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Park Commission: Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board meetings: New meeting format— Monday morning meetings: 8:30-9:30 administrative business; then agenda, general business, scheduled appointments. Mondays at 8:30–Nov. 3, 17 and 24; Monday, Nov. 10, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Question of the month:

This is intended to be an informal question to get a feel of where residents stand on issues.

Would you prefer to see the town use A) the same amount of salt on the roads as in previous years, B) less salt on the roads than in previous years or, C) more salt than previous years?

Please go to our homepage and click on the flashing banner to answer November's Question of the Month; or mail it to: P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245; or email admin@montereyma.gov.

Last month's question about a town-operated dog park: Thirty people responded as of press time with eighteen in favor and eleven opposed. The comments received were great and will be helpful in deciding where to go from here.

Other news:

We now have local weather available via Weatherbug. Please click on the Weatherbug icon on the town's homepage (www.montereyma.gov) to install the app on your computer or phone.

The Board has been working with Shawn Tryon, Director of Operations, to develop a solution for the many gripes we've received with regards to the overall operation at the Transfer Station. The Board and Shawn have decided that it would benefit the town to change the position of the transfer station attendant from a contracted employee through the hauling service to a town employee. This person will be primarily responsible for managing the transfer station three days per week but will also work two days per week with the highway department. Currently, the proposal is for a full-time employee at $17–$20/hour. This will require approval at a town meeting.

The Board has also heard proposals from two payroll service companies and will be discussing this throughout November to determine if this is the right course of action for the town.

We have heard you and will be setting up a meeting with the Colonial Power Group to discuss the process of joining the electrical aggregation consortium to help lower Monterey's electrical bills.

If you have not already filled out your survey from the Select Board regarding the services offered and the schedule of the town hall, please do so by November 30. Your responses are very important. We have added a website link to fill out the survey. Click on the flashing banner and then choose"Town Hall Services Survey."

—Wayne Burkhart, Chair
Scott Jenssen and Kenn Basler
Monterey Select Board

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911
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(for town boards and misc. questions)
Assessor: 528-1443 x115
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Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
(for licenses and town records)

Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meetings. See p. 26.

Every Tuesday: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9–10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Park Commission.

Through Saturday, November 29: *Brece Honeycutt, underfoot,* Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, see p. 7.

Saturday, November 1:

Gould Farm forest stewardship walk with Bob Rausch. Learn about options for your land. 10-2 p.m. Sponsored by Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and Natural Resource Conservation Services. Gould Farm will host a harvest picnic by the brook, space is limited.

Brece Honeycutt, underfoot, artist talk at 6 p.m. and reception, 6-8 p.m., Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. Sponsored by Monterey Cultural Council, see p. 7.

Tuesday, November 4:

State elections, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monterey Fire House.

Sewing circle, 10-11:30 a.m., Monterey Library, see p. 4.

Saturday, November 8: Library Planning Forum, 10:30 a.m. Monterey Library, see p. 5.

Tuesday, November 11: Veterans Day ceremony, Monterey Church, 11 a.m.

Thursday, November 13: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Visiting Nurses Assoc., 2–3 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room.

Saturday, November 15:

Circle Round (Group Community Exhibit) entrance form deadline. See p. 7.

Lenox Contradance. Live music by Coincidance: Eric Martin and Eric Buddington-fiddles, Tony Pisano-guitar and accordion, Josh Pisano-percussion; Calling by Jon Greene; dancing 8 to 11:30 p.m. All welcome; new dancers come at 8; all dances walked through. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St, www.lenoxcontradance.org, 413-528-4007.

Tuesday, November 18: Sewing circle, 10-11:30 a.m., Monterey Library, see p. 4.

Monday, November 24: Monterey book group will discuss *The Space Between Us* by Thrity Umrigar, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library. Newcomers are encouraged and welcome. December's book will be *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir* by Bill Bryson.

Saturday, November 29: Bidwell House Museum Colonial Holiday Thanksgiving fund-raising party, 4-7 p.m., $50 per person, see pgs. 12-13, and p. 23. For further information and reservations, please call 413-528-6888.

Sunday, November 30: Monterey 2020 Business Directory deadline, see p. 9.

Tuesday, December 2: Sewing circle, 10-11:30 a.m., Monterey Library, see p. 4.

Friday, December 5: *Circle Round* (Group Community Exhibit), 6:30-7:30 p.m., opening reception, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. See p. 7.

Saturday, December 6: Monterey Makers Studio Tour, 10-4 p.m. (Knox Gallery open at 9:30.) Sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council, see p. 5.

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Monterey News

The Monterey News is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 12; Bonner McAllester, p. 16.

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